

FALL/WINTER 2007

# WU WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

NEW LOCATIONS  
*Just Over the Bridge  
in New Jersey*

NEW NAME  
*Wilmington College  
Becomes A University*

DISTANCE LEARNING  
*Students Earning  
Online Degrees*



WILMINGTON  
UNIVERSITY

Dear Readers,



It has been a year of incredible growth and success for Wilmington University! As many of you already know, the institution went through a change in designation and has officially become known as Wilmington University. The name change comes with plentiful benefits, and we have had an overwhelmingly positive response from students, alumni, faculty, staff and members of the community.

Along with the name change, Wilmington University opened three locations in southern New Jersey that will be offering select degree-completion programs. The locations are Burlington County College, Cumberland County College and Salem Community College. This is the first time in history that the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education has granted licensure to an out-of-state institution to offer degree programs at multiple sites on community college campuses in New Jersey.

Additionally, the University has introduced a new doctoral program. The Doctor of Business Administration program is designed for business executives who are interested in building upon their master's degrees to excel in leadership, management and academia.

The University has also introduced a distance-learning program. We now offer four undergraduate degree programs entirely online! The programs in Criminal Justice, Human Resources Management, Business Management and Marketing allow students to earn a quality education from anywhere in the world. There are many in today's world who cannot come to class as frequently as they would like. Our distance-learning program gives these students the opportunity to earn a degree conveniently, affordably and promptly.

We hope that this magazine will help answer any questions you may have about the changes Wilmington University has experienced. We understand that we would not be the progressive, successful institution that we are today without the help of our committed faculty, our supportive staff, our alumni and, most of all, our enthusiastic students. I would like to personally thank all of you for turning a college with humble beginnings into the large, thriving institution that we are today. We didn't turn Wilmington College into a University. You did.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jack P. Varsalona". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Jack P. Varsalona  
President



## DEAR WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY SUPPORTERS:



It is an honor to write to you regarding support of the Wilmington University Annual Fund Drive. As a graduate of the class of 1980, I have had the opportunity to observe with pride the growth of the University throughout the state of Delaware and our new licensure in the state of New Jersey.

Your contribution will impact the educational experience of both current and future students. It is through

you, our supporters, that the University can continue to enhance academic programs, student-centered services and state-of-the-art technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terry R. Spence".

Terry R. Spence

*Speaker of the House, House of Representatives  
18th Representative District*

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You can also pledge online and locate our matching gift companies by visiting [www.wilmu.edu/alumni](http://www.wilmu.edu/alumni).



### **A NOTE CONCERNING THE ENVELOPES**

No one can miss the changes around campus. Signs on buildings, banners that hang from walkway lanterns and more are slowly changing to reflect our change in status to a University. The magazine is definitely a place you will see the name change - it is all over the magazine except for one spot. As I'm sure you know, all of these changes cost money. Our pledge envelopes were ordered well in advance of the change, and we in University Relations felt strongly about not wasting the resources allocated to print these envelopes. We want you to rest assured that we are conscious of this, and that by using these envelopes, we are making sure that your generous gifts are not wasted on expensive fundraising materials.

WU

EXCITING  
SUMMER

## WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE is the official magazine of Wilmington University and is produced by the Publications Department of the Office of College Relations. It is published and distributed twice a year. With a circulation of 30,000, WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE is sent to active students, alumni and other constituents of the University community. Personal views expressed in articles by faculty and staff do not necessarily reflect the official policies of Wilmington University.

Well, what an exciting summer we had! For those of you who have been following the college through the course of establishing three new partnership sites in the state of New Jersey and our becoming a University, you know how busy we have been. Even here at the magazine, we have had to retool our publication to reflect the progress that we have made and are proud to offer the new issue of Wilmington University Magazine, which you hold in your hands.

As the Director of University Relations, it is my happy job to be the conveyer of news and information about the University to you. As a group, we in University Relations do this in several ways – through podcasts, mailings and, of course, this magazine. However, we don't want this to be a one-way street. I know that exciting things are going on in your homes and lives as I write this, and Wilmington University Magazine is the perfect place to get the news out to your friends and family.

In the Alumni Notes section, you can keep everyone up to date on marriages, births, career changes, publications of your writing or anything in your life in which you take pride.



Jamie Varsalona

Some of you are already doing this through our office of Alumni Relations, but don't forget to send us pictures! We would love to show wedding pictures or baby pictures in this section. While we can't return them to you, we can place them prominently in the Alumni Notes section for all to see.

Also, in our editorial section, we are always looking for stories about the accomplishments of those in the Wilmington University family. Many of you are out in the world doing truly extraordinary things and we want to hear from you about your experiences. Therefore, I would like to invite you to write to us here at the Wilson Graduate Center. We would be delighted to hear from you and will try to publish as many as we can in upcoming issues. Please include your name and address so that we can drop a little thank you for your participation in the mail.

All of us here at Wilmington University Magazine hope you have a happy and healthy winter season!

Christopher Pitcher  
Director of University Relations  
Executive Editor



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With the persevering spirit of Dr. Jack P. Varsalona, Wilmington College officially became Wilmington University in September. This article highlights the process of becoming a university.

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Wilmington University now offers degree-completion programs at Burlington County College, Cumberland County College and Salem Community College. Burlington's Alex Demianovich was ecstatic to discover he could complete his bachelor's degree in southern New Jersey.

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# BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE DIVISION *Introduces* PI GAMMA MU



THE DELAWARE BETA CHAPTER OF THE PI GAMMA MU International Honor Society held its first induction ceremony on Nov. 9, 2007. Thirty-three students were inducted into the social science honor society whose aim is to encourage and promote excellence in social and political sciences.

# WUNOTES

## AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR SPEAKS AT NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK



The Wilmington University Library celebrated National Library Week with an appearance by the award-winning author, **CHRISTOPHER CASTELLANI**. Castellani's first novel, "A Kiss from Maddalena," was published in 2003 and was awarded the Massachusetts Book Award for fiction.

A native of Wilmington, Del., Castellani has used the memories of his Italian immigrant parents as inspiration for two novels, setting his most recent in the city's Little Italy. He spoke of his development as a writer, read an excerpt from his second novel, "The Saint of Lost Things," and answered questions about the creative process during the enlightening evening.

More than 100 people were in attendance, including Wilmington University students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the public. Italian-American

refreshments, music and a slide show of photographs of old Wilmington preceded the presentation.

Library Director James McCloskey, who introduced Castellani, described how libraries offer a "multi-sensory experience" and how it was the goal of the University library to offer such an experience to the community.



## THE GREATEST GENERATION TO ENTER DELAWARE CLASSROOMS

**MARK GIANSAINTI**, adjunct professor of History and Humanities, has researched, designed and written a classroom resource known as Project Delaware. The project enables high school and middle school teachers to bring Delaware's veterans into the classroom so that students

can have a better understanding of the past.

Each school is provided with packets that include topics such as World War II, the Battle of Iwo Jima, Pearl Harbor, D-Day and the Air and Naval War. Activities are provided to connect Delaware veterans to historic events,

and students are asked to listen as they recollect their versions of these events. Students are encouraged to discuss various interpretations of the past and receive a more interactive recollection of history.





# AIDS WALK DELAWARE A HUGE SUCCESS

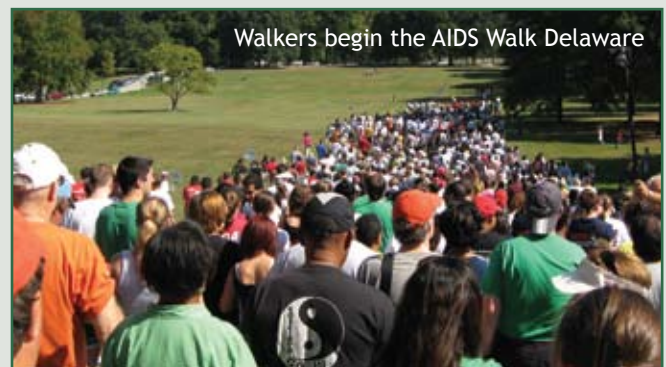
Wilmington University participated in the 21st annual AIDS Walk Delaware on the bright, sunny afternoon of Sept. 30. The walk is held every year to support Delawareans who are affected by the disease, educate and prevent future HIV/AIDS cases and to celebrate life. It was started as a grassroots walk to remember those lost to AIDS and has grown into a vast community event. A crowd of more than 6,000 gathered in Wilmington's Rockford Park to participate in the walk and an estimated \$190,000 was raised.

**TOM HURD**, assistant manager of the Graduate Center, said this was the first time Wilmington University had participated as a team in the AIDS Walk. Hurd first participated in the walk in 1986, and after missing many years, he returned to the walk last year with a few friends. It was such a positive experience that he decided to get a team together for 2007. When he started asking around at Wilmington University, the response was tremendous.

As word spread, more and more people began to sign up for the walk. Eventually a team of 30 Wilmington Univer-

sity staff, students and faculty raised more than \$1,320. "I was so proud of this group!" exclaimed Hurd. "I just kept telling everyone that it was more than just a fundraiser; it was a great event that brought so many people together from so many diverse backgrounds."

He said every cent raised will be spent right here in Delaware to educate, test and care for people who need our help. Delaware ranks fifth in the nation in cases of AIDS per capita.



Walkers begin the AIDS Walk Delaware

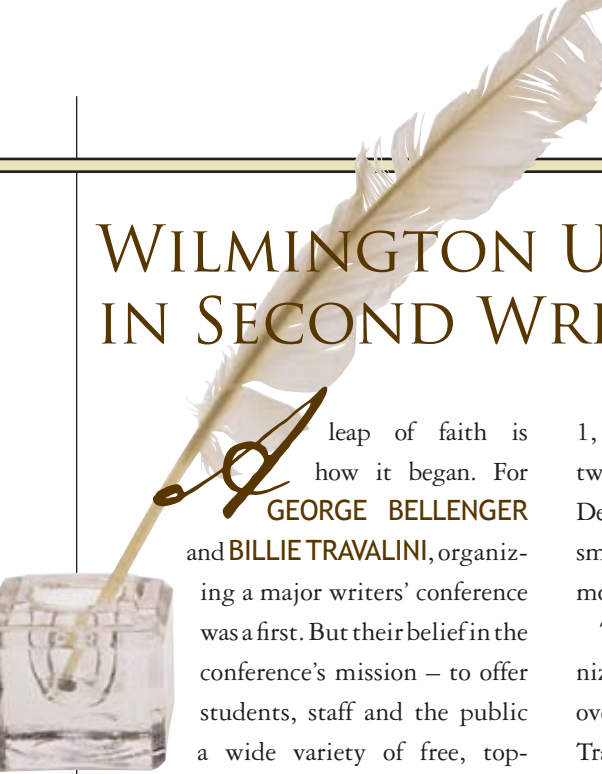
Brett Kull



Wilmington University staff, faculty, students and friends participated



# WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SECOND WRITERS' CONFERENCE



A leap of faith is how it began. For **GEORGE BELLENGER** and **BILLIE TRAVALINI**, organizing a major writers' conference was a first. But their belief in the conference's mission – to offer students, staff and the public a wide variety of free, top-quality writing workshops – proved infectious.

Last spring, Bellenger, dean of General Studies, and Travalini, adjunct professor of English, welcomed 180 people to Wilmington's undergraduate campus to attend the first New Castle Writers' Conference. Like the first conference, the second conference, scheduled for March

1, 2008, will be a partnership effort between Wilmington University and The Delaware Literary Connection (DLC, a small, nonprofit group dedicated to promoting the literary arts in Delaware.

The New Castle Conference was organized to serve a large number of writers over a large geographic area. This year, Travalini and DLC board member Barbara Gray, have worked hard to expand the scope of the offerings to include sessions such as "How to Apply for a Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowship Grant," "How to Get an Agent," "Editing Your Way to Success" and "The Long Road or Short Road to Publication." Additionally, there will be critique-driven workshops in fiction, nonfiction, poetry,

playwriting, feature writing and photography, plus a master level Workshop in fiction writing and in poetry. Interested writers must submit their work ahead of time for possible admission into the workshop.

"Wilmington University is honored to again work with the DLC to co-host the conference and share our vision of educational diversity with the greater community," said Johanna Adams, who assumed the duties as dean of General Studies from Bellenger, who is scheduled to retire in December.

"The 2008 conference has even more to offer," said Travalini. "We listened to attendees' feedback. Even so, much of last year's success is connected to

## ANNUAL HALLOWEEN LUNCHEON

Pirates, goddesses and oompa-loompas were all in attendance for Wilmington University's annual Halloween party, held on Oct. 31 at the New Castle campus. The Halloween party is part of an ongoing program led by the Human Resources department to create a positive work environment for the faculty and staff of Wilmington University.

The ACC auditorium was filled with balloons, pumpkins and banners. A ghoulish menu was served with dishes such as maggots (rice), witch's stew (beef stew), road kill (chicken parmesan) and dirt pie (pumpkin pie).

The food was delicious, the music was fun and everybody had a really great time. Thanks to the Human Resources department for organizing this enjoyable event.



Wilmington University's Web site design, setting and financial support."

At the 2008 conference, the University will again make a strong presence. Cruce Stark, retired professor of literature and writing and author of "Chasing Uncle Charley," will return and be joined by University of Delaware professors Drury Pifer, a novelist and award-winning playwright, and poet Jeanne Walker, the author of *A Deed to the Light* and five other volumes of poetry.

Best-selling novelist and nonfiction writer Tom Coyne, popular poet Gerry LaFemina, award-winning journalist Victor Greto and master photographer Bob Herbert will be back to share their experiences. They will be joined by Elise Juska, author of *Two for Joy*, her latest of three novels, and other writers. Travalini said the No. 1 goal is to make March 1, 2008, a day for writers to network, and in doing so, be inspired and learn.

## GENERAL STUDIES OFFERS NEW MILITARY SCIENCE MINOR

**ROTC STUDENTS** will be pleased to know that they can now attain a Military Science minor at Wilmington University. The General Studies department has forged an agreement with University of Delaware in which ROTC students from Wilmington University may attend Military Science classes at University of Delaware and receive credit towards a Military Science minor at Wilmington University.

The Military Science program is the study of technique, practice, and psychology of war and army combat. The mission of the program is to produce innovative and capable leaders to serve in the nation's defense. The program helps students build self-confidence, work well in teams, and learn responsibility, professional ethics and leadership skills.



Clockwise from top left:  
Benjamin Tabb; Dr. Thomas Couples wore a badge that read "This is my costume"; Danny Zukko and the Pink Ladies strike a pose (the HR department); Ron Sills daughter Grace Sills dressed up as an adorable Oompa Loompa; The ladies from the office of the president were goddesses; Pirate Tom Hurd and '80s rocker Carol Purcell; Gary Sydel and Linda Hardy dressed up as Mr. Impossible and Mickey Mouse; The University Relations Department were '80s rockstars.



Photos by Jamie Varsalona



# ATHLETICS

## RUST NAMED BASEBALL FIRST TEAM ALL-AMERICA

*Rust becomes the first Wildcat baseball player in school history to have earned NCAA First-Team All-America honors ...*

**JASON RUST** (Woodbridge HS/Greenwood, Del.), was named to the Rawlings/American Baseball Coaches Association Division II All-America First Team for his performance this past season. The ABCA's All-America committee released the team in conjunction with the 40th NCAA Division II Baseball Championship being played at Riverwalk Stadium in Montgomery, Ala.

Rust, a senior outfielder who led the Wildcats in almost every offensive category, finished the year hitting .360 with 47 runs scored and 62 RBIs. A first-team all-Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference and all-Northeast Region selection, he led the conference in home runs (21), RBIs and slugging percentage (.789), was second in total bases (138) and finished third in runs scored and hits (63).

He hit for the home run cycle in a win over the University of the Sciences in April, blasting two-run, solo and three-run homers before finishing off with a grand slam to key a six-run outburst in the eighth inning, and finished the game with five runs scored and 10 RBIs.

Rust becomes the first Wildcat baseball player in school history to have earned NCAA First-Team All-America honors, since Wilmington made the move to NCAA Division II in 2004.

The Wildcats, CACC tournament champions, finished the



Senior All-America outfielder Jason Rust swings for a home run.

Erin Harvey

regular season with a 10-6 record in the CACC and an overall record of 29-20. They earned the school's first berth in the NCAA Northeast Regional Tournament and were ranked as high as fifth in the region.

For his accomplishments in that game against the University of the Sciences, Rust was featured in the June 18 issue of *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces In the Crowd" section, highlighting his home run cycle feat. Jamie Apody of Channel 6 Action News in Philadelphia interviewed him on June 21 at Wilson Field.

Rust signed a professional contract to play baseball in the Independent League at the end of July. He signed a rookie free agent contract with the St. George (Utah), a member of the California Golden League.

## WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY SOFTBALL AMONG NATION'S BEST ACADEMICALLY

The Wilmington University softball team finished the 2006-2007 academic year with a team grade-point average of 3.479 to rank seventh among all NCAA Division II softball programs, it was announced by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

"I am extremely PROUD of this team, not only for the DEDICATION AND EFFORT they gave on the field, but more importantly for the countless hours of hard work put forth toward their studies in the classroom"

— Coach Harvey

The Wildcats, who were awarded the University's highest team GPA award last spring, also had the highest GPA in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference and ranked second among Northeast Region institutions. Grand Canyon University led all Division II schools for the second straight year with a 3.633 grade point average.

This is the first year that Wilmington earned a team GPA that ranked among the nation's top programs. The Wildcats, coached by Erin Harvey, finished the regular season and conference tournament in third place. The squad finished with a 31-15 overall record, a dramatic turnaround from its 9-31 record the previous year.

The student-athletes who earned Scholar-Athlete honors in 2006-2007 were Heather Bush, Lindsay Frye, Nicole Hays, Jaime Hurlock, Tracey Nepi, Amanda Mucaria, Kelly Schirmer, Jaclyn Temple and Lindsay Watson.

"I am extremely proud of this team, not only for the dedication and effort they gave on the field, but more importantly for the countless hours of hard work put forth toward their studies in the classroom," stated Coach Harvey. "It is a great honor to be considered one of the Top 10 All-Academic Teams, and I am ecstatic to see our student-athletes rewarded for their efforts."



The 2007 Wilmington Softball Team

## WILMINGTON GOLF TEAM ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS



*The Wildcats Golf Team  
finished first out of nine teams  
at the Goldey-Beacom College  
Invitational at Hartefeld Golf Course.*

The Wilmington University golf team started the 2007-2008 season with a few impressive finishes and a rare individual feat. The Wildcats began the fall with an outstanding showing at the Goldey-Beacom College Invitational at Hartefeld National Golf Course. The squad finished first out of nine teams to capture the tournament title.

The best showing of the season came at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships, held at Drumlins Country Club in Syracuse, N.Y. There, Wilmington placed fifth of 21 teams. At Drumlins, freshman Earl Cooper (A.I. DuPont HS/Wilmington, Del.) sunk an extremely rare double eagle during the second round.

Wilmington will host the CACC Tournament April 13-15 at Back Creek Golf Club in Middletown, Del. Beginning Sunday, May 4, 2008, the Wildcats will become the first school in conference history to host a NCAA Division II Regional Championship. The links at Back Creek will become the home of Northeast Regional Tournament.



# BASEBALL WINS CACC CHAMPIONSHIP

Wilmington University defeated Felician College, Dominican College and Caldwell College en route to winning Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Baseball Championship held at Frawley Stadium, home of the Wilmington Blue Rocks.

The Wildcats knocked off the Felician Golden Falcons, 14-11, in the opening game, before blanking defending CACC champion Dominican College, 1-0, in the second round. In the championship game, Wilmington defeated Caldwell, 10-7, to claim the title.

Wilmington junior **JOE MATTERER**, who pitched a complete game shutout against Dominican, was named the most valuable player of the tournament, while senior **JASON RUST**, juniors **MIKE WILSON** and **SPIKE AUSTIN**, and freshman **PHIL AVIOLA** also made the all-tournament team.

By virtue of winning the CACC championship, the Wildcats earned the conference's automatic berth in the NCAA Division II Northeast Regional Tournament at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H. Wilmington played the top-seeded Ravens of Franklin Pierce in the opening game and fell, 4-1. The Wildcats then took on the Bulldogs of Bryant University, and were eliminated from the tournament with a 5-1 loss.

Wilmington's appearance at the regional tournament marked the first time in school history the baseball program qualified for the regional championships since the Wildcats made the move to NCAA Division II in the fall of 2004.



Kirk Reed

## STUDENT-ATHLETES AWARDED END OF YEAR HONORS

Wilmington University honored student-athletes for their performances during the 2006-2007 season. Each coach chose a most valuable player and Wildcat Award recipient. The Wildcat Award recipient best exemplified the qualities of leadership and school spirit and promoted the values of the University on the field and in the local community. The following student-athletes were honored:

### ■ WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

MVP . . . Mary Kate McCaffery  
Wildcat . . . Danielle Burcham

### ■ MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

MVP . . . Joe Debus  
Wildcat . . . Scott Higgins

### ■ VOLLEYBALL

MVP . . . Kristin Wiedeman  
Wildcat . . . Jenny Todd and Katy Hickman

### ■ WOMEN'S SOCCER

MVP . . . Colby Bugda and Caitlin Robinson  
Wildcat . . . Melissa Samio and Krissy Sfetsas

### ■ MEN'S SOCCER

MVP . . . Sargbah Tarpeh  
Wildcat . . . Greg DiDiego

### ■ MEN'S BASKETBALL

MVP . . . Antonio Sherrod  
Wildcat . . . Blake Rubenstein



Erin Harvey



Erin Harvey



The 2007 Wilmington Baseball team celebrates their CACC Championship.

Left: Tournament MVP Joe Matterer accepts his award from CACC Commissioner Dan Mara.

## ■ WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MVP . . . . Amelia Simmons  
Wildcat . . Monica Hofmann

## ■ WOMEN'S LACROSSE

MVP . . . . Amanda Beasley  
Wildcat . . Kelly Wojciechowski

## ■ SOFTBALL

MVP . . . . Kim Lawrence and Kelly Schirmer  
Wildcat . . Shustine Wilson

## ■ BASEBALL

MVP . . . . Jason Rust  
Wildcat . . Brian Testa

## ■ GOLF

MVP . . . . John Purple  
Wildcat . . Lorne Shannon



Susan L. Gregg



Susan L. Gregg

## ■ CHEERLEADING

MVP . . . . Stacey Eby  
Wildcat . . Linda Faucher

## ■ HIGHEST TEAM GPA

Softball

## ■ HIGHEST GPA SENIOR ATHLETE AWARD

Jaclyn Temple (*softball*)  
Kenny McGrady (*baseball*)

## ■ OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETE AWARD

Colby Bugda (*women's soccer*)  
Jason Rust (*baseball*)  
Greg DiDiego (*men's soccer*)



By Suki Deen

# Wilmington College BECOMES A UNIVERSITY

T

HE NEWS SPREAD AT LIGHTNING

speed across New Castle County, into the Delaware Valley and across the bridge to New Jersey: Wilmington College had become a University. As soon as Dr. Jack P. Varsalona, the school's president, made the official announcement, newspapers, local leaders, students and alumni were calling in to offer their congratulations.

Many people were excited, but most people were curious. Why and how did Wilmington

College become a University? What is the difference between a college and a university? And how would this change affect the institution?

To understand why Wilmington College became a University, it is first important to understand the difference between the two terms. Most calls from the community came with the question, "What is the difference between a college and a university?" Depend-

ing on where you are in the world, the two terms can become very confusing. In Europe, for example, a “college” is a two-year institution, while in the United States, a two-year institution is referred to as a “community college.” Also, on this side of the Atlantic, many people use the words “college” and “university” interchangeably.

Since this can lead to confusion, it is important to understand what makes an institution a university.

### WHAT IS A UNIVERSITY?

The word university comes from the Latin *universitas magistrorum et scholarium*, meaning “community of teachers and scholars.” The term was first used in Great Britain in the 14th century and referred to an institution of higher learning that was made up of undergraduate, graduate and professional schools that have the authority to grant degrees in various fields of study.

The emergence of the first universities in the 10th and 11th centuries came at a time of renewed interest in Greek and Roman literature and philosophy, particularly that of Plato and Socrates. Many of the first Western European universities were built under the sponsorship of the Roman Catholic Church, and one of the most notable of these universities is the University of Oxford, the oldest English-speaking university in the world.

As times changed, the idea of what a university was began to transform. The world was changing, and a new focus on moral philosophy, mathematics, science, literature, history and sociology began to surface. In the 19th and 20th centuries, universities opened their doors to



Jamie Varsalona



the masses for the first time, and an age of intellectual advancement emerged.

John Henry Newman, a scholar of the time, described a university as “a place of concourse, whither students come from every quarter for every kind of knowledge ... It is the place for seeing galleries of first-rate pictures, and for hearing wonderful voices and performers of transcendent skill. It is the place for great preachers, great orators, great nobles, great statesmen.”

This concept of a university has been maintained to this very day. The diploma that you earn from a university may be important, but what is more important is the knowledge you walk away with.

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A COLLEGE AND A UNIVERSITY

The word college comes from the Latin *collegium* meaning society or association. It is defined as “an institution of higher learning that offers courses in general studies leading to a bachelor’s degree.”

According to EducationUSA, a global network supported by the Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, “Colleges tend to be smaller than universities and usually do not offer doctoral degrees, while a university offers a wide range of graduate programs, including doctoral degrees.” Additionally, some universities are comprised of small colleges. For example, a student may attend Boston University’s College of Engineering.

Based on the textbook definitions of college and university, Wilmington College was already a university. The College had over 11,500 students, offered a wide range of programs in two states and had degrees ranging from associate to doctoral. Dr. Varsalona realized this and thought it was time to recognize the school for what it truly was – a University.

Dr. Varsalona joined Wilmington College in 1984 as an assistant to the state superintendent of schools for Delaware and also served as an adjunct faculty member. In 1987, he became executive vice president for academic and student affairs and soon after was promoted to executive vice president and provost of the College. Having dabbled in various

careers at the College and seeing it grow from a small roadside college to a successful institution, he had experienced first-hand the small class sizes, personalized attention and continuous growth.

In the spring of 2005, he took on the presidency with big goals in mind. “As the College continued to grow and prosper, I began to think of ways we could broaden our method of education to new markets. Our mission has always been to provide opportunities to anyone and everyone who is motivated to learn, and so becoming a University would work to further enhance our original goals.”

Thus, Dr. Varsalona began a two-year initiative to conduct research on the impact of turning Wilmington College into Wilmington University.

## BECOMING A UNIVERSITY

The process of transitioning from a college to a university was long and meticulous. Focus groups, consisting of adjunct faculty, students, alumni and the alumni advisory board were formed. “We had



to present what university really means in today's world," said Dr. Varsalona. "Many years ago the word 'university' referred to a research institution; nowadays it means so much more."

According to the modern definition of a university, Wilmington College was already acting as one, a point that Dr. Varsalona stressed in a presentation to the faculty senate. This group, comprised of full-time faculty, unanimously approved a resolution recommending university status. External independent observers, such as accrediting agencies and the Carnegie Institute, referred to Wilmington College as having met all the criteria usually associated with university status.

Once presented to and approved by the Board of Trustees, the change in designation became official. Dr. Varsalona announced the news to the college staff and faculty at the annual college meeting. He praised the faculty and staff saying they were the people that made it all happen, and assured them that becoming a University would not change the personal "small college" feel of the institution. Wilmington University would continue to be dedicated to its hallmark of small class sizes, personalized student-faculty relations and affordable, convenient service.

"What is Wilmington University?" began Dr. Varsalona. "Wilmington University is the student in their 20s that has to work, the student who cannot afford a dorm or tuition and has to work in order to pursue a degree. And they succeed because of everyone in this room.

"Wilmington University is those married and single working mothers and fathers who never had an opportu-

nity to go to college. Suddenly, there is a place for them in our institution. And they succeed because of you.

"Wilmington University is anyone who has ever been motivated to improve their lives, and you were there to give them that opportunity."

Earlier that week, official letters were sent out to the entire college community letting them know of the change. Dr. Thomas B. Cupples, assistant vice president of Wilmington University said, "Over 50,00 letters were sent out to advise students and alumni of the new University status and alumni were given the opportunity to receive new diplomas reflecting the new name."

## THE RESULTS

"What we have found in the brief time since we announced the name change is that our students and alumni are both excited and thrilled," stated Dr. Varsalona. "Community leaders have come forward to offer their best wishes, and alumni are calling from all over the country to update their diplomas to proudly display their new alma mater."

Dr. Varsalona and other University staff visited a number of classrooms to tell students first-hand about the news. As Dr. Varsalona entered each classroom, he was met with applause in recognition of the change in status. He has been overwhelmed with the positive response from students and alumni.

"It is reassuring to know that our students, alumni, faculty and staff are proud of the institution. It inspires us to continue to work toward building even bigger goals for this flourishing University in an effort to provide infinite opportunities to our students," he said.

The change has provided many benefits to prospective and current students, including alumni. The name change distinguishes Wilmington University from other liberal arts and community colleges and allows the University to compete on a global scale.

Dr. Varsalona believes in the importance of setting goals and meeting them. "As we continue to grow as a University, our next goal will be to expand our on-line distance-learning programs as well as focus on introducing more doctoral programs such as our new Doctor of Business Administration program."

As a constant reminder to continue to strive for success, Dr. Varsalona has a famous Theodore Roosevelt quote hanging in his office, one that Dr. Varsalona can't help but glance at as he goes about his day.

It reads: "It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled or how the doer of deeds might have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, if he wins, knows the triumph of higher achievement; and who, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Just like that triumphant soldier, Wilmington University will continue its pursuit of greatness through the continuous success of its students, faculty and staff. ■



# DIVISION WELCOMES DEAN

*Meet the new dean of Behavioral Science, Christian A. Trowbridge. Wilmington University congratulates Trowbridge for his contributions to the University community.*



Christian A. Trowbridge becomes Dean of Behavioral Science Division.

Susan L. Gregg

AT THE END OF THE SPRING semester, Christian A. Trowbridge was named dean of the Behavioral Science Division, succeeding Dr. Thomas Cupples, who was promoted to assistant vice president in the president's office.

Trowbridge joined Wilmington University in the fall of 2003 as the coordinator for the undergraduate Criminal Justice program. The following year, he took the reins of the Administration of Justice graduate degree program, where he developed both a new concentration and post-master's degree certification in Homeland Security.

He has contributed to the University community as a leader over the past four

## DR. MATTERN JOINS DIVISION



Fresh from receiving her doctorate degree, **REBECCA MATTERN** joined the Division as the coordinator of the Behavioral

Science and Psychology programs. She was awarded her Ph.D. in education with a specialization in educational psychology from the University of Delaware in May, and her dissertation focused on pre-service teachers' achievement motivation.

Mattern has been an adjunct instructor at Wilmington University

years by serving as vice-chair of Faculty Senate during the 2006-2007 academic year, becoming co-chair of the Faculty Development Committee, serving on the Coordinator's Council and being co-advisor for the Criminal Justice Honor Society and the Criminal Justice Association.

Trowbridge graduated from Villanova University with a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science. While there, he was selected to membership in Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges for his academic achievement and service to the university in the Division of Student Life. He went on to earn his juris doctorate from Temple University School of Law.

Before joining the faculty on a full-

time basis, he spent 10 years as a prosecutor in the Office of the District Attorney of Chester County, Pa. He served as one of four deputy district attorneys in an office of 32 lawyers and 40 support personnel. He directly supervised trial attorneys, including those in the domestic violence unit, and prosecuted major felony criminal cases.

During his tenure as a deputy district attorney, he was also cross-designated to the United States Attorneys Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania as a special assistant United States attorney as part of a federal initiative designed to combat gun violence. He is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania.

In law school, Trowbridge participated in the Temple Law Education and

Participation Program as a high school mock trial team coach. While serving as a prosecutor and participating as a mock trial team coach, he developed an interest in education.

Trowbridge appreciates the people aspect of both his legal and academic work. He believes working with crime victims was as satisfying as advising students along their academic path. "I have been very lucky to serve in two professions that every day I come to work I have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life," Trowbridge said.

Trowbridge and his wife Elia, a practicing attorney in Delaware, enjoy spending their free time with their two young sons.

in Psychology and Education and has taught at the University of Delaware's School of Education. She was recently the keynote speaker for Dominion Power Station's Instructional Excellence Workshops, where she spoke on the topic of problem-based learning. Additionally, she is a reviewer for two professional journals and is a member of the National Honor Society in Psychology and the International Honor Society in Social Science.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Mattern now enjoys spending time at the beach and kayaking near her new home in Bethany, Del. "I love teaching and couldn't be happier to be a part of an educational community that focuses so much on providing an excellent academic experience to such a wide variety of motivated students," she said.

## AVIOLA BECOMES COORDINATOR OF ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE PROGRAM



As a 2002 graduate of the Administration of Justice program, **JOE AVIOLA** knows the value of the Wilmington University's master's degree. Starting this past summer, Aviola is the new coordinator for the Administration of Justice program, replacing Christian Trowbridge, who was named dean of the Behavioral Science Division in May.

Aviola retired in the spring with the rank of lieutenant after 22 years with the Delaware State Police. He had served in a variety of capacities including patrol, detective division and administration, and most recently as the director of the public information office. He is a master certified instructor for the Delaware State Police and holds a graduate degree from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

He was the recipient of Wilmington University's Trustee's Award for Service and is a member of the criminal justice honor society. He has served as an adjunct instructor in the undergraduate criminal justice program. Aviola has lectured nationally to law enforcement groups on the topic of ethics.

Aviola is a lifelong resident of Wilmington and a proud father of two. His wife Tanya is also a graduate of Wilmington University with a master's degree in School Counseling. In his spare time, he coaches football for the Delaware Military Academy.



# NEW DOCTORAL PROGRAM

*Wilmington University introduces new doctoral degree in Business Administration. Dr. Don Durandetta becomes coordinator of DBA program.*



Dr. Durandetta coordinates the Doctor of Business Administration program.

Susan L. Gregg

“THE FIRST STATE’S FIRST and only one of its kind,” is how Doctor of Business (DBA) Coordinator Dr. Don Durandetta describes the new DBA degree program, which begins classes at the Wilson Graduate Center in January 2008.

According to Durandetta, Wilmington University’s newest doctorate program is designed to facilitate the continuing development of professionals as innovative leaders and educators who wish to build upon their master’s-level core skills and knowledge.

“The DBA will be organized and scheduled to accommodate the needs of people who maintain full-time employment while pursuing their degree,” he said.

“Students in the DBA program will graduate with advanced business, managerial and educational skills, and go on to become innovative leaders in their chosen career paths,” Durandetta continued. “Similarly, the DBA program is designed for those interested in making the transition from the business world to the academic world, as well as for those at senior management levels who are looking for the opportunity to build upon their MBA or business-related master’s degrees.”

In contrast to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), which places more emphasis on the development of new knowledge and theoretical perspectives, the DBA is a “practitioner’s degree that develops skills that are immediately applicable,” he said.

“We will use a hybrid course-teaching format with about half of the typical classroom instruction time replaced with online instruction,” Durandetta

said. "It will take about two or two-and-a-half years to complete the course work and an additional year may be needed to finish a dissertation."

The Wilmington University DBA degree requires the completion of 54 semester credit hours comprised of 21 credit hours of general doctoral research and leadership courses, 24 credit hours of DBA program core courses and nine credit hours of dissertation or research project. Courses will include such topics as research writing, disciplined inquiry, action research, leadership issues, managing innovation and change, and organizational strategy and policy.

Additionally, students will investigate advanced organizational behavior, managerial finance and accounting, enterprise-wide competitive solutions, quantitative business analysis, business and management ethics, research in management, advanced marketing management, global management models and either a dissertation or research project.

"The culminating research project involves extensive research with advice from a faculty committee," Durandetta explained. "A dissertation or research project must be completed, reviewed and approved by the student's advisory committee prior to the beginning of data collection for the research topic. At the completion of the dissertation or research project, the student will defend the results before the advisory committee and program colleagues."

For more specific information about the Doctor of Business Administration program, contact the University Information Center at 302-356-4636 or visit the Wilmington University Web site at [www.wilmu.edu/business](http://www.wilmu.edu/business).

## DR. DON'S CHEMISTRY RIGHT FOR DBA PROGRAM

**DR. DON DURANDETTA** — or "Dr. Don," as he likes to be called by his students — is an assistant professor in the Business Division and coordinator for the new Doctor of Business Administration degree program. He has been with Wilmington University for the past three years.

Originally from rural Pennsylvania, he earned his undergraduate degree in secondary education with plans to teach high school chemistry. Instead, he attended graduate school and received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Cornell University. With that background, he decided to work in the chemical industry and spent more than 30 years with several companies. While there, he spent 25-plus years involved in sales, marketing and business management.

Dr. Durandetta had the opportunity to be involved in new product launches in the U.S. and international markets. More than half his business experience has been in international areas, particularly in Asia where he conducted market research to determine the suitability of products in foreign markets and cultures. He has also been involved in designing sales and marketing programs.

While living in Japan for four years, he worked for a business unit that was selling new medical products. Some of his most exciting experiences have been involved with the planning, development and launching of new highly technical products for agricultural testing.



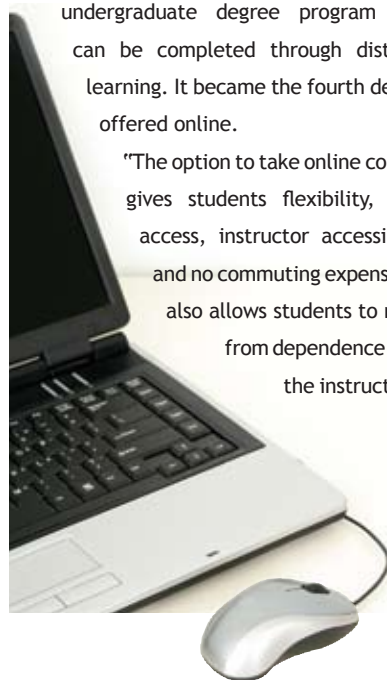
## MARKETING DEGREE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Marketing has become the latest undergraduate degree program that can be completed through distance learning. It became the fourth degree offered online.

"The option to take online courses gives students flexibility, 24/7 access, instructor accessibility and no commuting expenses. It also allows students to move from dependence upon the instructor to

independence upon themselves and interdependence upon each other for learning," said Dr. Steve LeShay, Marketing program coordinator. "All four of our required marketing core courses are currently being offered as 15-week distance learning classes at least once a year using Blackboard technology."

He also noted that each semester at least one online section of BMK 305, the basic Marketing course required of all business majors, would be offered online. New Marketing courses, such as "Advertising and Public Relations" and "Services Marketing," are currently being added to the online Marketing electives.





# SUMMER WORKSHOPS

*Teens explore their creative talents in challenging programs at cutting-edge summer workshops developed by the iTAC division.*

**M**OST PEOPLE ASSOCIATE the words “college” and “university” with young adults. Last summer, the iTAC Division was populated by an even younger set of students who manned the computer labs and studios. The young people ranged in age from 12 to 16 and were seen around campus taking digital photos, creating videos and producing fine art. The weeklong summer workshops were a welcome and successful diversion from traditional camps.

Wilmington University adjunct professors provided instruction for the workshops in June and July. Ed Coburn, photography teacher, was amazed at the amount of energy and enthusiasm his group possessed to keep moving and learning. He said, “The joy was in the voices, the faces and the eyes of the students, who reached beyond all I anticipated for them, and then some.”

Coburn’s students worked with natural light as well as in a studio setting. They used Photoshop to enhance their images, worked on photo collage and experimented with photo manipulation and filters. The end product was a photographic portfolio documenting the weeklong event. “Ed really taught us a lot, but he didn’t make it seem like school,” said Dana Hufe, 13.

In the drawing and painting course, Marietta Dantonio immersed the students into the world of art exploration, self-discovery and art execution. While the topic was drawing and painting, the program went beyond mixing paints and placing them creatively on canvas. Students explored the theme of cultural diversity focusing on Na-



Drawing and Painting Instructor Marietta Dantonio works with Sam Grandel.

tive American and Egyptian art. The completed paintings show sensitivity, awareness, talent and discipline.

Students who took the video workshop worked with Elizabeth Abell and assistants Christina Personti and Kort Dennis to learn the process of creating a short video. The 12- and 13-year-olds were creative and eagerly took on the challenge of learning how to properly write a short script, shoot footage and edit what they had shot into a completed project. Some students used the television studio for their shots while others went on location. They learned the importance of preparation and teamwork.

"It was amazing to work with these youngsters. The fact that none of them had ever touched a professional editing system, and were able to edit these projects on their own, was beyond all expectations," said Abell.

Look for the Summer 2008 schedule of camps in early February. Contact Maria Bannon at maria.i.bannon@wilmu.edu to be added to our mailing list.

## WORKSHOP PHOTOS



Susan L. Gregg



Susan L. Gregg

Clockwise, from top left:

Photo camp participant Emily Bower in a photograph by classmate Dana Hufe; David Wang works on a painting; Saidah Russell shows off her watercolor masterpiece in progress; Michaela Schaffer used Photoshop to add bubbles to her photograph of photo camp classmate Danae Paparis.

## iTAC INTRODUCES NEW MINORS

At the New Castle site, new minor fields of study have been created to complement the raft of changes brought about by the recent program review. All of these iTAC minors are available to every Wilmington University student wishing to enhance his or her major studies and support the pursuit of a career, regardless of major and division.

- Media Design — *Multimedia Production Minor*
- Media Design — *Photography Minor*
- Media Design — *Print Minor*
- Studio Production — *Broadcast and Electronic Journalism Minor*
- Studio Production — *Digital Film Minor*
- Studio Production — *Television and Video Minor*
- Studio Production — *Drama Minor*

Each minor is attainable by accumulating 15 cognate-area credits (certain courses may, however, require prerequisite skills or permission of the coordinator). The programs are made up of five three-credit courses. Students wishing to pursue a minor should contact Academic Advisement.



# ALLIED HEALTH

*New degree-completion programs to be offered  
with tracks in Allied Health Management  
and Allied Health Education.*



**L**AST SPRING, THE FACULTY Senate approved a new degree aimed specifically at graduates of Allied Health associate degree programs.

The new degree completion program is designed to accept the Allied Health credits students have already earned, while providing them with the advanced education necessary to advance within their chosen careers. The degree completion program has two tracks: Allied Health Management and Allied Health Education.

The Allied Health Management track is for students interested in management or supervisory positions. It is an interdisciplinary track with courses from the divisions of Business, Behavioral Science, iTAC and Nursing & Allied Health. This has proven to be a popular choice for our Allied Health students.

The Allied Health Education track prepares students to teach in their respective disciplines. Students in this track take courses from the Division of Education and the Division of Nursing & Allied Health. While this is a smaller track, it meets a serious and growing need for Allied Health educators in our region.

In order to recognize this change, we are now called the Division of Nursing & Allied Health.

## NEWS FROM THE DIVISION OF NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH

■ DR. DOT BAKER visited Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., as a consultant for the development of their revised community health nursing examination. Dr. Baker also contributed to Nieswiadomy's Foundations

## NURSING STUDENTS EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE FRAMEWORK

The goal of the Nursing & Allied Health Division is to explore different avenues in teaching. Based on leadership values developed by the Center for Nursing Leadership, students were asked to select one of nine dimensions of nursing leadership - social accountability, differences, trust, discovery, openness, integrity, regeneration, co-creation and courage - and choose a creative genre. They were told to describe how one of these dimensions is present in their personal and professional life.

### IS THAT MY REFLECTION?

By Courtney D. Walker Marshall

*There is a face at the window,  
It is black,  
With pains branded in its mind.*

*There is a face at the window,  
It is a girl,  
With chains tied to her feet  
so that she might not run.*

*There is a face at the window,  
It is soul,  
With fellow-feeling,  
Knowing that many have laid their lives  
so that she might live.*

*There is a face at the window,  
It is a personage of humor,  
Escaping into a world of laughter and play.*

*There is a face at the window,  
It is a spirit of ambition,  
Tired of the present but moving forward  
to the future.*

*There is a face at the window,  
It is an individual showing proudness,  
Conscious of her greatness and importance  
to the world.*

*There is a face at the window,  
It is a mind of love,  
Caring for those that have caused her pain,  
Loving those that have shown her prejudice.*

*There is a face at the window,  
It is an image of ferventness,  
Seeking to unite the world by benevolent acts.*

*There is a face at the window,  
It is a person,  
But is it the person I am,  
Or who I wish to become?*

### MOUNTAINS I WILL CLIMB

By Jessica Wheaton

*Mountains I will climb,  
A child learning how to talk,  
and learning how to walk.  
Creating my own personality.*

*Mountains I will climb,  
Flipping from a child to a young adult,  
Struggling through puberty.*

*Mountains I will climb,  
Finding myself, creating myself,  
Traveling to where I want to be.*

*Mountains I will climb,  
Discovering my calling,  
Realizing how I want to live.*

*Mountains I will climb,  
Through tests and evaluation,  
Until the day of graduation.*

*Mountains I will climb,  
I create a whole new chapter,  
Starting a new and fulfilling career.*

*Mountains I will climb,  
Learning and perfecting my skills,  
Each day brings a new obstacle I must conquer.*

*Mountains I will climb,  
As I further my education,  
Going further than I ever imagined.*

*Mountains I will climb every day  
Mountains I will climb ALL the way.*

Courtney Marshall, a BSN student and an employee at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, chose to write a poem.

Jessica Wheaton is also a BSN student and currently works full time at Crozer Chester Medical Center in the medical intensive care unit.

of Nursing Research. She also contributed to Lubkin & Larsen's Chronic Illness: Impact & Interventions. Baker developed critical thinking and small group discussion activities, case studies and Internet links for the new Student Lecture Guide.

■ The Division of Nursing & Allied Health has two more faculty members who



WEEKS

have earned certified nurse educator (CNE) status. MARIA WEEKS and DENISE WESTBROOK both successfully met CNE requirements. Congratulations!



WESTBROOK

■ DR. MARGARET JOPP visited Fairfield University in Connecticut and met the dean of nursing at Galway University. Dr. Jopp hosted the dean at Wilmington University in October 2007. Division

faculty members talked with their colleague from Ireland and learned about potential international educational opportunities.

■ DR. TISH GALLAGHER, dean of Nursing & Allied Health, recently hosted the leaders of all the nursing programs in Delaware at a meeting at the Wilmington University Rehoboth site.

# DIVISION PROGRESS

*With almost 4,000 current students,  
the Education Division looks back  
on 20 years of progress.*



Betty McVey is a school counselor  
at Pleasantville Elementary.

**T**WENTY YEARS AGO IN 1987, an associate's degree in early childhood education was first offered at Wilmington

University to assist with the preparation of teachers. That program was expanded to a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1990 and the first graduating class in 1992 consisted of nine students, three of whom were triplets — Judy, Jackie and Patty Conoman.

Our first graduate program in education, which was also started in 1987, was a master's degree for teachers in effective teaching and school leadership. In 1991, two more educational programs were brought to Wilmington University with the advent of our master's in school counseling and a new doctoral program which had 44 students in northern and southern clusters. Two more graduate programs, special education and elementary education, were introduced in the '90s, while several other programs have come into being over the last six years. We now have four undergraduate programs and 11 programs that lead to advanced degrees.

The student population in the Division of Education has blossomed to an enrollment of almost 4,000 in just 20 years. That certainly serves as a testament to our faculty, the community, the State of Delaware, the University's administration and to Dr. Barbara Raetsch, who served as the division chair for much of that period.

All of our programs are based upon a conceptual framework. That framework flows directly from and supports the Division's mission of prepar-





ing educators to work effectively with a diverse population of students by translating theory into practice. This is done by a core of full-time faculty members working closely with a cadre of adjunct faculty members to prepare educators for the realities of the workplace. They can do this successfully because they live or have lived and fully understand those realities.

At the center of the conceptual framework and of every preparation program in the Division is a set of program attributes. The eight program attributes establish a theoretical base for all of our programs and include the following:

1. Programs are knowledge based.
2. Programs view educators as learners.
3. Programs are sensitive to context and culture.
4. Programs stress inquiry, analysis and reflection.
5. Programs stress participation, collegiality and collaboration.
6. Programs are ongoing and based on best practices.
7. Programs are driven by standards.
8. Programs promote the effective use of technology.

Every preparation program in the Division of Education focuses on these eight attributes and every program aligns with the University's graduation competencies, specific competencies unique to that program and the appropriate state, professional and national standards.



## SOME INTERESTING FACTS

Wilmington University has had and will continue to have a profound impact on K-12 schools and the face of education throughout the region. Below are a few Division highlights that are noteworthy:

- The 2006-2007 **DELAWARE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR**, Tony Marchio, and the 2006-2007 **DELAWARE PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**, Bruce Curry, are both graduates of Wilmington University's doctoral program. In addition, Elvina Knight, the 2006-2007 **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**, is also a graduate of one of our master's degree programs.
- Last school year, 56 percent of all private, parochial and public school principals and assistant principals in Delaware either completed their degree or some of their administrative training at Wilmington University. Sixty-five percent of the schools led by principals who received their leadership preparation at Wilmington University were awarded **SUPERIOR OR COMMENDABLE RATINGS** in 2006. Additionally, 81 percent of the schools led by Wilmington University prepared administrators met or exceeded 2006 annual yearly progress targets in the Delaware Student Testing Program.
- Wilmington University was cited in *U.S. News and World Report* as one of America's **BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS** in education for the last four years.
- While the University of Delaware still produces more teachers than Wilmington University, many of them return to their home states while most of our graduates remain in Delaware, thus making Wilmington University the **LARGEST PRODUCER** of teachers for the State of Delaware. In 2004, 37 percent of Delaware's public school teachers had received preparation at Wilmington University.
- The 18 full-time faculty members that serve the Division of Education are steeped in P-12 education and service to the profession. In fact, they have experienced more than **400 YEARS OF SERVICE** as teachers, principals, central office administrators and State Department of Education employees. Authentic experiences are a significant component of our preparation programs, and we bring a substantial amount of authentic experience to the College and to our candidates.
- During the 2006-2007 school year, Wilmington University placed about **1,800 CANDIDATES** in clinical situations throughout Delaware, as well as some in the neighboring states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. These clinical experiences took place in private and parochial schools as well as in public schools in most of the districts in Delaware.

The Division of Education is excited about its success and looks forward to future successes. We are certainly aware of the role that we play in the educational community and realize that our mission is to serve those who have chosen the education of children as their life's work.

# KATHLEEN THOMAS NAMED DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD CHAIR

Kathleen Thomas, Wilmington University adjunct professor, Teacher Preparation Advisory Board Member and 23-year high school teacher with National Board Certification, has been named chairwoman of the Delaware Professional Standards Board (DPSB).

Thomas was named by Gov. Ruth Anne Minner in June after having completed a year's service on the board. As a former Delaware Teacher of the Year, Thomas regularly met with the state secretary



of education and legislators to discuss educational issues. Thomas is ideal for this position, as she has constantly acted on behalf of educators and the children she has served.

A strong advocate of public education throughout her career, Thomas has been recognized in the state and in the region. She has also been involved in several Department of Education initiatives including service as a mentor

for national board candidates, as well as lead mentor for all new teachers employed at Caesar Rodney High School, where she teaches.


The state mentoring program focuses on methodology and classroom management. Thomas teaches district and state in-service programs as well as providing programs to technical education teachers through the state career programs. In addition to her responsibilities as chair of the DPSB, Thomas serves on the Vision 2015 Committee as one of the educator consultants from the Department of Education.

The DPSB was created by the General

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Assembly. Its charge is to work in conjunction with the Department of Education and the state Board of Education to give educators a voice in decisions that impact their profession. As a member of the DPSB, Thomas participates in discussions designed to develop rules and regulations involving educator professional development, licensure and certification requirements, establishing criteria for professional development, and criteria for paraprofessional qualifications and training. The DPSB is composed of 16 members representing major educational constituencies and the three Delaware counties.

With Thomas' leadership, vision, energy and enthusiasm, the DPSB should be a viable and dynamic force in the education profession in Delaware.

## SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY CELEBRATE NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR WEEK

The Delaware School Counseling Association (DSCA) and Wilmington University celebrated National School Counselor Week, February 5-9, 2007. The New Castle County and Kent and Sussex County DSCA chapters hosted dinners sponsored by Wilmington University admissions.

These events were true collaborations that reflect the close relationship between the University and the profession of school counseling. Wilmington University supports school counselor efforts to provide guidance and counseling that stimulates growth in the areas of academics, personal, social and career development. The ultimate goal is the success of students as total individuals.

The focus of the dinner event was "School Counselors: Helping Students Reach New Heights." Highlighted were the unique contributions of professional school counselors in Delaware's educational system. Counselors and school administrators were honored for their excellence in creating exemplary programs and implementing successful counselor interventions.

These outstanding educational professionals provided inspiration to all counselors. Also, they demonstrated the passion and commitment that is needed to serve students and to create an exceptional teaching and learning environment.



## GET A WINTER GLOW

The winter months are coming so keep that summer glow going by visiting Peace of Mind Tanning, now open for your convenience in the Shops at Limestone Hills. Check out our new line of tanning equipment including a state-of-the-art UV-free tanner, our Thermo-jet body contouring system, and our indoor tanning skin care products. Get the skin care that best suits your lifestyle.

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By Suki Deen

# New Jersey JUST OVER THE BRIDGE

T

AKING A DEEP BREATH, ALEX DEMIAN-

ovich pulled into the parking lot of Laurel Hall at Burlington County College in Mount Laurel, N.J. He had made this drive a thousand times before, but today he was a little apprehensive. As a recent graduate with an associate of arts degree at Burlington, Demianovich was undecided on his future career path.

“I wasn’t really considering coming back to school for a while,” he said thinking back

to his graduation day. Like many students in southern New Jersey, Demianovich didn’t have many options after attaining his associate’s degree. He worked part-time and went to college in his free time, meaning in order to complete a bachelor’s degree, he would need to not only find a program that had convenient times and locations, but also a degree that interested him.

While reading the *Burlington County Times*,

Demianovich came across an article about Wilmington University. The article noted the University was now offering degree completion programs at Burlington County College as well as Cumberland County College and Salem Community College. They were offering flexible scheduling, small class sizes and affordable tuition.

“I heard about Wilmington University and their program in General Studies,” recalled Demianovich. As someone who was open to exploring different career paths, Demianovich was attracted to the General Studies program at Wilmington, which allowed him to tailor a program of

study depending on his varying interests.

Walking into Laurel Hall, Demianovich asked the attendant at the information desk where he could learn more about Wilmington University. He was directed down a short hallway and into a small, bright, welcoming office. Louise Babuschak, New Jersey site director, and Mary Gankiewicz, New Jersey site associate, were sorting through mounds of paperwork. The office was slightly bare with some desks and shelves but not much else.

“Well, Alex was our first student to enroll at Wilmington. I remember he came in about three weeks prior to our

official launch because we didn’t have much furniture in here,” remembers Babuschak fondly. Although the first official day of registration was July 23, 2007, Demianovich had been ready and eager to sign up. “The office wasn’t even set up,” laughed Gankiewicz, “but we sat down right then and there and signed him up for classes.”

Wilmington University gained licensure to teach in New Jersey after a two-year proposition started by its president, Dr. Jack P. Varsalona. The University had a positive relationship with a number of local and community colleges in the area, including long-time partner of Wilming-

#### SEE MORE SITE OPENING COVERAGE

The University Relations Department produced a video about the New Jersey site openings. To view it, visit the University Web site at [www.wilmu.edu/University](http://www.wilmu.edu/University).



ton University, Dr. Pete Contini, president of Salem Community College. According to Dr. Angela Suchanic, assistant vice president of Wilmington University, "The decision was made by Dr. Varsalona based upon available data on the lack of higher education opportunities at the third and fourth year for students in southern New Jersey and our growing relationships with the community colleges in the region."

On June 29, 2007, the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education granted licensure to Wilmington University to offer select degree completion programs in three New Jersey locations. This is the first time in history the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education has granted licensure to an out-of-state institution to offer degree-programs at multiple sites on community college campuses in New Jersey.

Dr. Varsalona, Burlington County College President Dr. Robert Messina Jr., and Cumberland County College President Dr. Kenneth Ender came together on June 29, 2007 at a joint press conference to announce the expansion. The presidents, joined by Bill Clark, who represented Salem County College, participated in a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at the Burlington County College site, and then proceeded to walk into the college. By entering the college, the presidents were symbolically demonstrating how Wilmington University was expanding its services into New Jersey.

Dr. Varsalona was pleased with the growth and the positive response from students and local residents. "This expansion meets the need for four-year institutions in southern New Jersey and reinforces the idea of making higher education more accessible to anyone mo-

Alex Demianovich was the first student to sign up at Wilmington University's Burlington location.



Jamie Varsalona



Jamie Varsalona

Louis Babuschak, New Jersey site director, and Mary Gankiewicz, New Jersey site associate.



Wilmington University staff at the New Jersey Launch. From left to right: Peg Mitchell, Johanna Adams, Sherry Stevens and Melanie Baldwin.

Susan L. Gregg





Participating in a ceremonial ribbon-cutting were, from left, Bill Clark of Salem County College, Cumberland County College President Dr. Kenneth Ender, Burlington County College President Dr. Robert Messina Jr. and Wilmington University President Dr. Jack P. Varsalona.

Susan L. Gregg

tivated to learn," he said. "It is closely aligned with our mission to provide access to all and to deliver programs at locations convenient to students."

After Demianovich registered at Wilmington, more and more students began enrolling for the bachelor's degree programs in the locations at Burlington, Cumberland and Salem. Burlington's most popular programs were Psychology and Criminal Justice, Cumberland was most popular for its Nursing degree program and Salem's most popular program was Business Management.

"What the students seem to like is the different ways that we offer courses," stated Babuschak. The courses are offered in block or modular format. Block formats are semester-long, seven-week blocks and modular courses are primarily offered in a weekend format on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. Students from Burlington, who were used to the modular format, were excited about being able to take night classes in a block format that fit around their busy schedules.

Babuschak and Gankiewicz are friends

who got to know each other while working for the Trenton, N.J., school district. After retiring, Babuschak came across a job listing for a New Jersey site manager at Wilmington University. She decided to take the position and soon convinced Gankiewicz to take on the position of New Jersey site associate.

It wasn't an easy job, but the two friends dedicated themselves to setting up the New Jersey sites and taking the Wilmington University mission over the bridge. Assisting them was Rehoboth Beach Site Director Dennis Huffman. "(Huffman) has been very instrumental in setting up the New Jersey sites," said Babuschak. "He's been our lifeline," added Gankiewicz. Huffman had a lot of experience as a site director and also had a long history with the University. He introduced the new site director and site associate to the appropriate people, as well as helping to coordinate the site setup.

The growth of the New Jersey locations has been remarkable. In less than three months, Burlington has enrolled 23 students in various programs. Cumberland

saw the most significant growth with 47 students, 25 of whom are nursing majors. Salem's growth has been slower, but as news of the partnership with Wilmington University spreads, there is expected to be even more growth.

In the meantime, Demianovich is continuing to enjoy his learning experience at Wilmington University. "I particularly enjoy the fact that the classes are small, it is more of a personal setting and we are able to have interesting class discussions," he said, adding that the faculty at Wilmington has been excellent, encouraging him to engage in open class discussions instead of just reading a textbook.

Most of all, Demianovich says he appreciates the convenient times Wilmington offers courses. "It's perfect!" he said enthusiastically. "I work from 10 to 2 every day, so I take all night classes. It has been very helpful."

As Wilmington University introduces more and more programs in New Jersey, we hope more students over the bridge in New Jersey will begin to enroll. ■



Online degrees allow students to  
take classes from anywhere in the world

Photo by: Michael Monti

By Suki Deen

# University Offers ONLINE DEGREES

W

E ARE LIVING IN A WORLD BURST-

ing with new technology. From the iPhone to high-definition televisions to wireless laptop computers, digital technology is now easier to access than ever before. Many people appreciate the convenience of digital technology. Years ago researching a paper meant spending days in the local library; nowadays, the World Wide Web provides endless sources of information on any subject from Western movies to cellular biology.

The Internet also offers people the chance to earn a degree online. With the touch of a button, you can have a professor teach you business management right from your very own living room. The advent of online learning has made it even more convenient to earn a degree on your time.

This year, Wilmington University stepped into the digital age by introducing four undergraduate programs taught entirely online.



The programs in Criminal Justice, Human Resource Management, Business Management and Marketing allow students to complete a bachelor's degree from anywhere in the world.

The Distance Learning program comes after two years of careful planning and research. Although other colleges and universities have been quick to begin offering online degrees, Wilmington University deliberately chose to move at a slower pace. As an open admissions institution, we wanted to be sure that a "high-touch" component was added to all distance learning programs offered. Since our hallmark has always been our student-centered service, we felt it was very important to create a user-friendly distance learning system.

And so the plans were set in motion. A committee led by Dr. Betty Caffo, provost and vice president of academic

affairs, was appointed to investigate the various approaches of implementing distance learning programs at Wilmington University. Through the hard work of Director of Distance Learning Sallie Reissman, Assistant Vice President of Administrative Affairs Dr. Pete Bailey and Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Jim Wilson, the committee's recommendations were met by approval by President Dr. Jack P. Varsalona and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Including technology in the classroom has always been a priority for Wilmington University. In the spring of 2001, we began expanding courses with Blackboard, the University's online learning platform where instructors and students can access course materials and communicate online. Along with Blackboard, we developed courses in a hybrid or fu-

sion format, meaning 50 percent of the instruction was online and 50 percent of the instruction was in the classroom.

Over the course of several years, the University has trained 193 faculty to teach online courses and developed 141 courses in hybrid format. A virtual campus allows faculty the freedom to be creative and offers a new level of communication with students. The students have been overwhelmingly positive about their online learning experience at Wilmington University.

"I absolutely adore the distance learning classes," exclaimed Kim Baker, a Criminal Justice online student. "I am hoping that more will be implemented."

## THE DISTANCE LEARNING TEAM

The Distance Learning team is comprised of three team members. The team is

## OUR FACULTY

**GERRY DAVIS** received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Secondary Education and her master's degree in Social



Service from Bryn Mawr College. She has 20 years of experience as a medical social worker in both the private and federal sectors. While at Wilmington University, Davis has developed and taught online courses for Introduction to Sociology and Ethnic Groups and Minorities and will be teaching these classes in both the seven- and 14-week formats this fall. She has already taught Introduction to Psychology and Medical Sociology on-line.

We asked Davis a few questions about her feelings

regarding teaching and learning online:

### WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY:

*What is your approach to teaching online?*

**DAVIS:** I make my classes as interactive as possible with Internet quizzes and activities designed to pique student's interests. Discussion boards are an integral part of my courses, and students are expected to post to the discussion boards a specified number of days. This promotes learning from within the students rather

than from me. My courses are based on theories and concepts, and I have found that students learn much from each other as they discuss their interpretation of the concept or issue under discussion. Lastly, I have students apply course concepts and theories to current events through the use of magazine and newspaper articles. This makes the theory or concept more real to them.

### WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY:

*What are your thoughts about teaching and*



#### THE DISTANCE LEARNING TEAM

From right to left: Joseph Rapposelli, instructional technologist; Bonnie Kirkpatrick, instructional designer; and Sallie Reissman, director of distance learning.

#### *learning in the online environment?*

**DAVIS:** I love teaching online and most of the feedback I have received from students has been positive. In addition to all the resources of the Web right at your fingertips, I have found that students are much more open to discussion of their thoughts and feelings in an anonymous environment. By the end of the online course, I have a much better sense of the individuality of my students than I do in the

face-to-face setting. I also believe the online course is great for that student who is reluctant to speak in the classroom.

#### **WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY:**

*One of the key challenges facing online instructors is how to provide clear and visible guidance in a virtual environment. In the traditional classroom, facilitation relies on both verbal and non-verbal cues to initiate understanding of ongoing communication and course tasks. How can an online*

#### *facilitator accomplish these same tasks?*

**DAVIS:** You can accomplish these tasks in a number of ways. Although I do not post to the class daily, I do sign on and check to see what is happening. If the discussion board is going off-course, I will go in and constructively redirect it. If I see a consistent pattern in an assignment or activity that indicates a lack of understanding, I will post an announcement as a means of clarification. I also use announcements to commu-

nicate “you’re doing great,” as I believe this type of positive feedback keeps students motivated. I try to make all of my comments constructive and positive. Additionally, in every class there are students who will pick up on a discrepancy or ask for clarification. If in the process of responding to them, I feel that my response can benefit all, I will post an announcement. In the end, there is not much difference between online and class facilitation. It is not so much what you say, but how you say it.

under the direction of Sallie Reissman and is further supported by Bonnie Kirkpatrick, instructional designer, and Joe Rapposelli, instructional technologist.

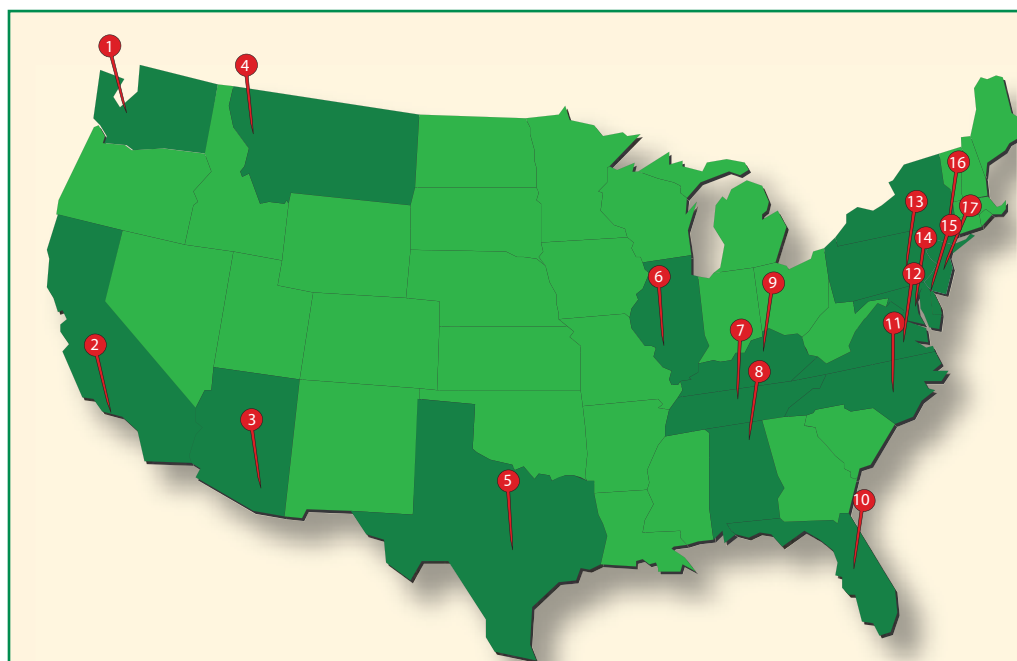
The members of the Distance Learning team are faced with a continually changing environment where there is little past history. As a result, team members are resourceful and willing to take risks to create new ideas and develop innovative approaches to distance learning. The department operates with a small staff and each member fulfills multiple roles. Many of their roles overlap and often require expertise in unrelated functions. Because the roles and responsibilities are so diverse, the team has learned to thrive on change and flexibility. The ability to work quickly and juggle multiple tasks at one time is a common trait among the four staff members.

## OUR GOALS

The Distance Learning Department currently works with faculty and departments interested in developing online courses and programs. The team members work with University faculty to develop their skills in distance education delivery methods.

The Distance Learning Department also:

- Seeks to ensure that the University's distance education efforts, planning and policies operate efficiently and effectively.
- Looks for ways to use distance and instructional technology to enhance resident instruction.
- Serves as a point of contact for online initiatives on campus.
- Works with the University administration to enhance the infrastructure that supports distance education including admissions, registration, financial aid, library and student support services.



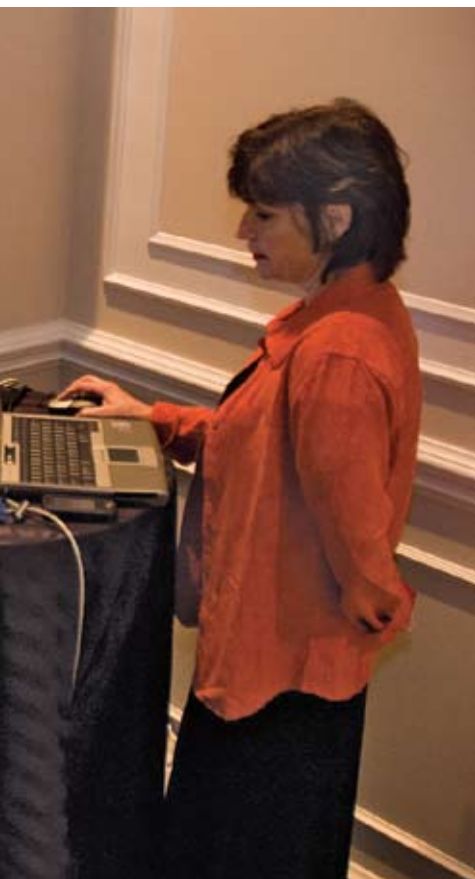
A Map of the United States shows how Wilmington University distance learning students are spread out across the nation. Wilmington University students earn online degrees everywhere from Washington State to Florida thanks to the distance learning team.



Faculty members were taught about online learning programs.



- 1 La Center, Wash.
- 2 Santa Monica, Calif.
- 3 Tuscon, Ariz.
- 4 Missoula, Mont.
- 5 Randolph Air Force Base, Texas
- 6 Alton, Ill.
- 7 Mount Juliet, Tenn.
- 8 Huntsville, Ala.
- 9 Louisville, Ky.
- 10 Davenport, Fla.
- 11 Fayetteville, N.C.
- 12 Richmond, Va.
- 13 Fredericksburg, Pa.
- 14 Baltimore, Md.
- 15 Wilmington, Del.
- 16 Millwood, N.Y.
- 17 Atlantic City, N.J.



Jamie Varsalona

## WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY DISTANCE LEARNING KICKOFF CELEBRATION

*By Joseph Rapposelli*

The Distance Learning Department entered the 2007 fall semester by welcoming the participating faculty and staff to an informative kickoff celebration. The purpose of this celebration was to introduce the Wilmington University community to the faculty and staff of the Distance Learning Department as well as provide a brief overview of the Distance Learning goals and objectives.

**DR. PETER BAILEY**, assistant vice president of administrative affairs opened the ceremonies by thanking the entire faculty and staff for their dedication, support and enthusiasm during the development of Distance Learning at Wilmington University. Bailey also discussed the current status of the Distance Learning programs at Wilmington University as well as announced the future online programs that will soon be available through Distance Learning.

**SALLIE REISSMAN**, Director of Distance Learning, continued the celebration by organizing a social meet-and-greet session that provided an opportunity for Wilmington University faculty to get to know one another. Also included during this time were continuous information sessions introducing faculty to new programs and resources.

On hand throughout the information sessions was **BONNIE KIRKPATRICK**, instructional designer within the Distance Learning Department. Kirkpatrick was available to provide various pedagogy techniques and course content resources for online learning.

Other presentations included library resources, updated Blackboard features and helpful techniques provided by current faculty members. Participating faculty members that were present to showcase their exemplary coursework included Davis Sechler, Hal Lowe, Tracey Pritchard, Regina Allen-Sharpe and Kathi O'Donnell. There was also a continuous "Illuminate" demonstration where faculty could participate in a live Web conferencing session that could assist with conducting their online courses.

Due to the overwhelming success and participation at this celebration and the continued growth of online learning at Wilmington University, the Distance Learning Department is considering making this an annual event.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The University has continued to develop and implement online learning courses with the help of the Distance Learning team. In the past year, they have overseen the development of 36 courses in an online format and currently have more than 700 online seats for Fall I and II. At present, there are 62 online courses either under development or in the planning process.

Academic Affairs is in the process

of prioritizing three programs that will be developed in an online format beginning next fall. They will most likely include one undergraduate and two graduate degree programs.

As technology continues to advance, Wilmington University will continue to expand its use of technology, both in and out the classroom. The University pledges to be at the threshold of educational technology as the world continues to move into the digital age. ■

# WU ALUMNI

## LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

As an alumnus, you are a very important part of the Wilmington University community. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if you have relocated or have a new place of employment. See our contact info on page 43.

### ANNUAL ALUMNI PICNIC



Susan L. Gregg

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND THEIR FAMILIES CELEBRATED THE 9TH ANNUAL ALUMNI PICNIC HOSTED BY THE Alumni Association on July 28, 2007. The picnic was held on Wilmington University grounds. More than 300 people joined the festivities and shared memorable moments with Wilmington University faculty and staff.

## 72

**William Shuman** (B.A. *Business Management*) of Gastonia, N.C., is working as a private security professional. Bill, a.k.a. "Nifty," keeps in touch with many of his '70s classmates. He expressed his thanks to the Wilmington University faculty and staff for the unforgettable memories he has of his college days. Bill keeps busy with his three wonderful grandchildren, two girls and one boy. He looks forward to a visit to Delaware to tour the Wilmington University campus.

## 74

**Patrick J. Fisher** (B.B.A. *Business Management*) of Laflin, Pa., is a senior account executive for Alcoa Consumer Products. Patrick shared his thoughts with us: "Dreams are born from opportunities and my education from W.U. provided me with the opportunity to make all of my dreams a reality. I will forever be grateful to W.U."

## 83

**Richard A. Mariano** (B.B.A. *Aviation Management*) of Saginaw, Texas, recently retired after 27 thrilling years as an en-route air traffic control specialist. Rick plans to pursue a second career as an air traffic instructor. He also plans to work on his collection of muscle cars.

## 95

**Cheryl Layfield** (M.S.N., B.S.N. *Nursing '91*) of Millsboro, Del., is a nurse practitioner in the Indian River School District. Cheryl was recently awarded the Delaware Excellence in Nursing Practice award in the category of advanced practice nursing. Cheryl is an active member of Omicron

Gamma, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing chapter.

## 97

**Necati Anaz** (*M.B.A. Management, M.S. Public Administration '96*) of Norman, Okla., is a Ph.D. student at the University of Oklahoma studying geopolitics of the European Union and Turkey. Necati is also a teaching assistant in the department of geography.

## 98

**Jessica Adams (Barrett)** (*B.S. Human Resources Management*) of Lubbock, Texas, earned her master's degree in Public Administration-Public Policy/Economics from Texas Technical University in 2005. Jessica and her husband John are the proud parents of daughter Sarah, born in March 2007.

**Diane Carroll** (*M.S. Human Resources Management, B.S. Human Resources Management '95*) of New Castle, Del., is employed by the state of Delaware as an administrator for the Division of State Service Centers. Diane was an adjunct instructor at Wilmington University for more than three years and states, "I will never forget how enriched I was by being a part of the faculty at W.U." Diane and her husband have two daughters and two granddaughters. The youngest daughter is a graduate from Delaware State University and the oldest daughter is in the U.S. Army serving our country in Afghanistan.

**Joseph M. Pro** (*M.B.A. Business Administration*) of Bear, Del., is president and chief executive officer of Pennsylvania Machine Works, Inc. in Aston, Pa. The company is a manufacturer of industrial pipe fittings used in petrochemical refineries, power plants and shipbuilding.

## 99

**Lt. Henry V. Tobin III** (*M.S. Human Resources Management*) of Hockessin, Del., has been appointed police chief of the new Middletown Police Department. Henry has spent 28 years as a county policeman.

## THE AUTHOR'S CORNER

**MAURICE S. GIBSON** (*2003 M.S. Criminal Justice*) a detective on the Camden, N.J., police department is pleased to present his debut novel. He is the author of "Timeless: A Series of Love Tales." Maurice's book tells the story of former Navy seal captain and University of Michigan graduate Dr. Steven M. Rease. The book takes us on a journey of love and romance as the character tells a story of his years through high school, college, pro football and the U.S. Navy. Sharing the experiences that helped him develop into more than just a man, his tales show how he has been able to withstand and overcome the mental and emotional distractions that would forever destroy the love between him and his Cambodian queen. Look back at the days that you thought would never end through the eyes of Dr. Steven M. Rease and be embraced in a voyage of timeless love. (Published by Maurice S. Gibson, [www.Shadowromanz.com](http://www.Shadowromanz.com)).



## Wilmington Experience Leads Alumni to Degree at Trinity College

When **DAWN REIMSCHUSSEL** returns to the United States this fall, she will have completed her coursework for a master's degree at one of Europe's leading colleges, the University of Dublin — Trinity College. She gives much of the credit for her academic success to the preparation provided by Wilmington University. Through hard work — enrolling in 18 credits per semester in block and modular class formats so as to fast-track her degree — Dawn was able to graduate a semester ahead of schedule in the winter of 2005 with a degree in Behavioral Science.



Following graduation, Dawn was admitted into the Administration of Justice master's degree program where she encountered "professors who were highly trained in the subjects they teach and balanced theory with practicality." She completed her master's degree in the fall of 2006. Dawn is a member of the University's Delta Epsilon Rho Honor Society and Alpha Pi Sigma, the national Criminal Justice Honor Society.

Dawn's interest in Trinity College was sparked when she traveled with the Ireland Study Abroad group lead by Dr. Tom Cupples in June 2005. Dawn is wrapping up her coursework this fall for a master's degree in Applied Social Research at Trinity College. She plans to relocate to the Atlanta area upon her return to the United States and will be seeking employment with a consultancy firm or market research firm.

Dawn feels that her academic experience at Wilmington prepared her very well to enter Trinity, one of the world's foremost academic institutions. "Both my undergraduate and graduate programs at Wilmington included courses in research. I was ahead of most of the students at Trinity because I had been exposed to research concepts," she said. "My degrees at Wilmington were both writing intensive. Since writing skills are essential in social research, my Wilmington University coursework was, once again, a huge benefit." One never knows where a Wilmington University degree will lead!



## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Fall 2007/Spring 2008

The Alumni Association is pleased to announce that scholarships have been awarded to the following individuals for the fall 2007/spring 2008 academic year:

### LAURA S. DUNCAN

Seaford, Del.  
Master's in Elementary Education

### CARMELITA MCMILLION

Seaford, Del.  
Master's in Elementary Education

### BRITTANI B. LEATHERN

Wilmington, Del.  
Business Management

### HEATHER L. RICHARDSON

Bear, Del.  
Marketing

Recipients were selected by the Alumni Association executive board members, based on their academic achievement, personal and community service achievements and letters of recommendation.

Applications for the fall 2008/spring 2009 will be accepted from June 2008 through August 2008 for new and continuing students in the undergraduate and graduate programs. Visit the alumni Web site for detailed information: [www.wilmu.edu/alumni](http://www.wilmu.edu/alumni).

At the Middletown mayor and council's meeting, he proudly introduced the 17 employees and police dog, Nitro, who will comprise the new police department.

## 00

**Zan T. Lapps** (*M.S. Human Resources Management*) of Dagsboro, Del., is employed by the Social Security Administration. Zan and husband John, who is also a graduate of W.U., (M.S. '02, B.S. '98) have both advanced to GS-13 and have been accepted in the presidential management fellows program.

**Keith T. Waters** (*M.Ed. Special Education*) of Middletown, Del., is an educational diagnostician in the Red Clay Consolidated School District.

## 01

**Brian M. Rostocki** (*B.S. Finance*) of Newark, Del., has joined Fish & Richardson P.C. in the Wilmington, Del., office as an associate in its litigation group. Brian received his J.D. from Widener University School of Law, magna cum laude, in 2004. He is admitted to practice in Delaware and before the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware.

## 02

**Denise Blevins** (*M.S. Public Administration, B.S. Human Resources Management '01*) of Colorado Springs, Colo., is a contract specialist at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Denise and her husband Shane, an active duty Air Force Captain and Wilmington University graduate (M.S.'02), and sons Brenden and Blake moved to Colorado last year.

## 03

**Dr. Laurie Brown-Abdelmageed** (*M.Ed. Special Education*) of Bryans Road, Md., is a vice principal in the Charles County Public School District. Laurie earned her doctorate of philosophy in Educational Administration from Capella University.

**Laura M. O'Sullivan** (*M.S. Administration of Justice*) of Newark, Del., was recently

promoted to the rank of senior sergeant and commanding officer in the professional development unit at the New Castle County Police Academy.

**Gayle H. Rutter** (*M.Ed. School Counseling*) of Dover, Del., is the first assistant principal at Alfred G. Waters Middle School's freshman academy in Middletown, Del. Gayle will transfer to Appoquinimink High School when it opens in fall 2008. She is studying at the University of Delaware to earn her doctorate of education with an administration and policy concentration.

**Melissa A. Zebley** (*M.S. Administration of Justice*) of Wilmington, Del., has been promoted to lieutenant and is working in the budget and administration division of the Delaware State Police headquarters.

## 04

**Yvette A. Thomas** (*M.S. Administration of Justice, B.S. Criminal Justice '00*) of Wilmington, Del., is serving as a United States postal inspector at the Philadelphia headquarters.

**John W. Treadwell, Sr.** (*M.S. Administration of Justice*) of Clayton, Del., is a sergeant for the New Castle County Police Department. John is currently studying strategies of management and leadership at the Southern Police Institute at Louisville, Ky.

## 05

**Amber Gabel** (*B.S. Middle Level Education*) of Grandview, Texas, is a fifth-grade social studies teacher at Coleman Elementary School. The school participates in "College Days," a tradition where all teachers must wear the apparel of the college they attended during the first week of school, and throughout the year when progress reports and report cards go out. Amber is proudly wearing a Wilmington University shirt.

**Crystal L. Graham** (*M.Ed. Applied Educational Technology, B.S. Primary Education '02*) of Clayton, Del., is the recipient of the

Smyrna School District Teacher of the Year award.

**David P. Ireland** (*B.S. Criminal Justice*) of Wilmington, Del., is a carpentry instructor at Howard High School of Technology. David and his wife Katrina have three children, Lilly, Fallon and Liam.

**Anthony L. Manerchia** (*B.S. Finance*) of Newark, Del., works for Sun National Bank in Vineland, N.J. Anthony was recently promoted to regional manager of wholesale lending in the Delaware market. He is a member of the Delaware Association of Builders and Contractors, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce and The Committee of 100 in Wilmington, Del.

**Lynn Teeters** (*B.S. Business Management*) of Baltimore, Md., is an assistant branch manager for M&T Bank. Lynn sits on the board of directors for the Chesapeake Center for Youth Development.

## 06

**Gary McGill** (*M.B.A. Business Administration*) has relocated to his native England to rejoin his family business as director of new business development. The business, The

One-Shot Corporation Limited, specializes in patenting and developing systems for dispensing ice cream and blended drinks. Gary has an engineering background and found that his M.B.A. degree from Wilmington University has been a tremendous asset upon his return to England. Gary is a world traveler for both business and pleasure.

**Dr. Anthony J. Mooring** (*Ed.D. School Counseling*) of Baltimore, Md., has just completed his first year as a school counselor for Baltimore County Public Schools. Anthony has been promoted to department chair for the counseling department. He credits this promotion to the excellent education and preparation he received while studying at Wilmington University in the School Counseling program.

**Joshua M. Pro** (*B.S. Business Management*) of Bear, Del., is a client resource manager at Bancorp in Wilmington, Del. Bancorp deals in health savings accounts.

## 07

**Tonya M. Brady** (*B.S. Human Resources Management*) of Dover, Del., is employed by the state of Delaware as a human resources specialist II. Tonya was so inspired

by her education at Wilmington University that she returned in the fall to pursue a master's degree.

**Dr. Anthony Guzman** (*Ed.D. Innovation and Leadership, M.S. Administration of Justice '03*) of Pennsauken, N.J., is currently a law student at Concord University School of Law in California. He feels completely prepared for this chapter of his life due to the knowledge acquired at Wilmington University. Dr. Guzman stated, "Wilmington University creates leaders that are capable of changing the world one graduate at a time. I have never attended a college that cares so much about its students."

**Marc Wienkowitz** (*B.S. Legal Studies*) of Newark, Del., is a paralegal in the office of Peter N. Letang, Esquire. Marc is enrolled in the Florida Coastal School of Law.

### ENGAGEMENTS

Edward Flores (2006 M.S.) and Ayinde Truxon

Jennifer Mills (2006 B.S.) and Alfred Dittman III

### The Alumni Association Executive Board

Joseph Houghton '98 B.S., *president*

Marilyn Simpson '02 B.S., '04 M.B.A.,  
*acting vice president*

Arlene Johnson '02 M.S., *recording secretary*

Joanne Green '97 B.S., *account manager*

George Smith '99 B.S., *event coordinator*

#### Class Representatives

Natalee S. Burke '05 B.S., '07 M.S.

Sharon M. Clark '04 B.S., '06 M.S.

Elba Negron '00 B.S.

Lynda Scigousky '72 B.A.

Barbara Smith-Little '01 M.S.

LaTrina Woods, '01 B.S. '07 M.Ed.

### The Alumni Association Sussex County Executive Board

Phillip Winder '04 B.S., '06 M.S., *president*

Shelley Thomas '04 B.S., *vice president*

Trey Bowden '04 B.S., '06 M.S., *recorder*

Gail Jones '01 B.S., '03 M.B.A., *event coordinator*

#### Class Representatives

Artish D. Fountain '04 B.S., '05 M.S.

Daniel A. Gibson '04 B.S.

Tribhuwan Singh '06 B.S.

### The Office of Alumni Relations

An invitation to attend monthly meetings is open to all alumni. Meeting dates are posted on the University Web site. If you have comments or questions, please direct them to the Alumni Office.

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By Eileen Donnelly

## FOLLOWING A DREAM

Many people have contemplated leaving the rigor and stress of the corporate world to do something more worthwhile, but few actually do. One of our students has left behind his suit and tie and dons more casual daily attire as he prepares for his new profession. Wilmington University has been fortunate to shepherd his dramatic career change as he prepares to pursue his dream.

Mark Zitz was a 1982 accounting major from Virginia Tech. After graduation, he spent the next 24 years in the telecom industry. Mark completed his master's in business administration from Widener University, while simultaneously becoming vice president of customer operations for Cavalier Telephone.

In 2001, Mark began to realize his true passion was in education. He had the desire as a child to go into teaching, but his family discouraged him due to the low income potential. Mark had tutored in the past, as well as coached swimming and always acted as a coach in the workplace. Over the next several years, even as he succeeded in his executive position, he thought on and off about changing careers.

In September 2006, Mark decided to take a graduate level Strategies of Effective Teaching course at Wilmington University to see if he had an interest in following a dream he had left behind 35 years earlier. The classes he took gave

him the impetus for his next steps. In December, Cavalier merged with Talk America and Mark left, deciding to continue his graduate degree full time. He plans to graduate in January 2008 with his master's in elementary studies. While at the University, he has taught Spanish part-time at the Delaware Military Academy and plans to student teach fifth grade at St. Peter's in New Castle in the fall.



When asked why he chose Wilmington University and whether he had a positive experience here, the answers are abundantly clear. Mark first notes the excellent reputation Wilmington University has for education. He has found the faculty to be extremely personal and very well qualified. Mark particularly appreciates their tremendous depth of knowledge in what they teach, as well as the individual attention they give to each student.

He has also found the emphasis on technology to be outstanding. The li-

brary databases are robust, the classroom equipment and facilities are in excellent condition and the support staff is extremely customer-friendly. He said his decision to choose Wilmington University has been an excellent one.

Mark is very excited about what lies ahead. His prior experience with tutoring and teaching tells him that teaching full-time is mentally and physically exhausting. One thing he realized was that a teacher is on stage all day long and that teaching is more demanding than people realize. Fortunately, he is certain that he has the stamina and will be well-prepared for his new career. In the future, he plans to take more courses to expand into special education.

What is most important to Mark is that what he is doing has tremendous value. He understands that many children need attention, good role models, a quality education and advice. He feels very excited about the opportunity to have a positive influence on them and enjoys working with kids.

While walking out of the Delaware Military Academy last spring, Mark recalls thinking, "Isn't it neat that I get paid to do this?"

When his mother asks him if he misses the corporate life, he assures her he is very happy with his decision. I am quite sure there will be many children and their parents that will be very happy with Mark's decision, too. ■



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